



Clean Energy Future Committee

Date: August 25, 2023

Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Remote Meeting

Minutes

Attendance:

- Members: Aimee Graeber, Amos Meeks, David Morgan, James DiTullio, Marc Breslow (left at 9am), Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Talia Fox
- Members Absent: Eric Helmuth, Jim Feeney, John Alessi, Shelly Dein
- Also attending: Patrick Hanlon, Jacob Glickel

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am.

1. Virtual Meeting Reminders

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times.
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday.
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to the next meeting.

2. Review and Approve 6/30/2023 Meeting Minutes

- CEFC reviewed the draft minutes from the June 30, 2023, meeting and approved with a show of hands. D. Morgan abstained due to absence.

3. Letter to ARB re: MBTA Communities Act

- The MBTA Communities Working Group is working on finalizing the multi-family by-right zone(s). The final proposal will be sent to the Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) for consideration. The ARB will present the proposal to the public for comments and questions and decide what should be presented to Special Town Meeting (STM) in October. The CEFC Chair and T. Fox have drafted a letter of support to the ARB and are seeking CEFC input and approval.
- At this point in time, the letter is to show support for the concept of the MBTA Communities, rather than support for a specific plan. The Town cannot proceed with the Fossil Fuel Free Pilot without passing at least the minimum requirements of the MBTA Communities Act because the state has inextricably tied the two together. Town Meeting voted to take action on the Clean Heat Bylaw in 2020; to implement this, MBTA Communities must be passed.

- Ten towns, including Arlington, have been approved for the Fossil Fuel Free Pilot. There is a proposal at the state level to add more communities, but it is unclear if the program will be expanded.
- Letter approved with minor changes including clarifying that Arlington is already approved for the Fossil Fuel Free pilot; that passing the legislation will keep the Town eligible for funding sources that it will otherwise lose; that if we don't pass it, we will be out of the Fossil Fuel Free pilot, we won't be able to get back in, and we may not even qualify as a back-up community; and that this is a support for the *concept* of the MBTA Communities rather than an endorsement of any particular zone or regulations.
- There was some discussion about sending this type of letter at a later date, after the proposals are finalized, to Town Meeting members, rather than to the ARB now, or to send both letters.
- P. Miettinen made a motion to approve the letter; M. Breslow seconded. Eight members present voted in favor, one was opposed.

4. Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw Language Updates

- Arlington decided to start with the model bylaw prepared by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and edit it to reflect our preferred language.
- A. Meeks presented a quick timeline recap. In 2020 Town Meeting passed a home rule petition prohibiting fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction. Instead of granting the home rule petition, the Legislature set up the Fossil Fuel Free pilot program. In order to participate in the pilot, Arlington must re-adopt our Clean Heat Bylaw, and is proposing updates to bring the bylaw into closer alignment with the state model and with the Stretch and Specialized Codes. The Fossil Fuel Free pilot application is due September 1st. Special Town Meeting, which will include consideration of the new draft bylaw, begins October 17th.
- The original bylaw prohibited installation of or updating fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction and major or gut renovations, and provided a waiver process and a few exemptions.
- Proposed edits include
 - Changing the definition of “major renovation” for residential buildings from 75% of the Gross Floor Area (GFA) to 50% of the conditioned square footage and more than 1,000 square feet to better align with the model rule and Stretch Code definitions.
 - Changing the exemption for gas hot water use from a 10,000 sq ft + building with no financially viable alternative to any multi-family building with 12,000 sq ft or more, provided the domestic hot water is the only combustion system, through Jan 2027 (i.e., there no cost related requirements for this exemption through this date).
 - Changing the original implementation date of 7/1/2022 or six months following approval by the Commonwealth of MA to 90 days following authorization by DOER.
 - Eliminating the 2020 bylaw exemption for cooking appliances.
 - The Director of Inspectional Services, Mike Ciampa, suggested that the CEFC might consider an exemption for cooking appliances for

commercial buildings (i.e., restaurants). Ultimately, the bylaw working group decided to leave this to a waiver process.

- A. Meeks made a motion to keep the language as drafted (i.e., to prohibit fossil fuels in all cooking, including in commercial venues). D. Morgan seconded; unanimous approval with a show of hands.
 - CEFC also voted unanimously with a show of hands to approve the language in the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Warrant Article.
- Town Day is Saturday, Sept 23rd, 10:30am – 4:30pm. T. Fox is looking for volunteers to work at the CEFC table; swag and snacks to be provided.

Next Meeting Date September 22, 2023

- D. Morgan moved to end the meeting and A. Meeks seconded. Unanimous vote by show of hands.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead